PCT/AU 97/00747
RECEIVED 22 SEP 1998



THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

1. A method of treating an immune-mediated disorder having an inflammatory component and/or a cellular hyperproliferation component, comprising the step of administering to a patient requiring such treatment a gold compound and at least one corticosteroid, wherein the at least one corticosteroid is selected to interact with the gold compound to exhibit preferential synergistic action towards one of the components of said disorder or to exhibit equal action towards each component of said disorder.

2 A method of treating an immune-mediated disorder according to claim 1 wherein the disorder has an inflammatory component and a cellular hyperproliferation component.

3. A method of treating an immune-mediated disorder according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the gold compound and the at least one corticosteroid are administered simultaneously.

4. A method of treating an immune-mediated disorder according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the gold compound and the at least one corticosteroid are administered sequentially.

5. A method of treating an immune-mediated disorder according to claim 4 wherein the at least one corticosteroid is administered after the gold compound.

6. A method of treating an immune mediated disorder according to any one of the preceding claims comprising the step of administering at least two corticosteroids, at least one of which is selected to interact with the gold compound to exhibit preferential synergistic action towards the inflammatory component, and at least another is selected to interact with the gold compound to exhibit preferential synergistic action towards the cellular hyperproliferation component of said disorder.

7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the disorder is an immune-mediated dermatological disorder.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the disorder is psoriasis.

9. A method according to claim 7, wherein the disorder is dermatitis.

10. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

11. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the gold compound is lipid soluble.

12. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one corticosteroid is selected to interact with the gold compound to exhibit synergistic activity towards cellular hyperproliferation in preference to inflammation.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one corticosteroid is selected from the group consistin of betamethasone dipropionate, fluocinolone acetonide and hydrocortisone.

14. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one corticosteroid is selected to interact with the gold compound to exhibit synergistic activity towards inflammation in preference to cellular hyperproliferation.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the at least one corticosteroid is selected from the group consisting of betamethasone dipropionate, fluocinolone acetonide and mometasone furoate.

16. A method according to claim 10 wherein the corticosteroid is selected from the group comprising hydrocortisone acetate, hydrocortisone, betamethasone, betamethasone dipropionate, dexamethasone, fluocortolone 21-pivalate, triamcinolone acetonide, betamethasone valerate, alclometasone dipropionate, halcinonide, mometasone furoate and fluocinolone acetonide.

17. A method according to claim 16 wherein the corticosteroid is selected from the group comprising hydrocortisone, betamethasone dipropionate, mometasone furoate and fluocinolone acetonide.

18. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the gold compound is auranofin.

19. A method according to any one the preceding claims, wherein the gold compound is administered systemically.

20. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 18, wherein the gold compound is administered orally.

21. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 18, wherein the gold compound is administered locally.

22. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 18, wherein the gold compound is administered topically.

23. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 18, wherein the gold compound is administered by intra-articular injection.

24. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one corticosteroid is administered systemically.

25. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 23, wherein the at least one corticosteroid is administered orally.

26. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 23, wherein the at least one corticosteroid is administered locally.

27. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 23, wherein the at least one corticosteroid is administered topically.

28. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 23, wherein the at least one corticosteroid is administered by intra-articular injection.

29. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a gold compound and one or more corticosteroids, the corticosteroid being selected to interact with the gold compound to exhibit a preferential synergistic action towards an inflammatory component and/or a cellular hyperproliferation component of an immune-mediated disorder, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient, adjuvant or solvent.

30. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 29, wherein the composition is formulated for systemic administration.

31. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 29, wherein the composition is formulated for oral administration.

32. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 29, wherein the composition is formulated for local administration.

33. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 29, wherein the composition is formulated for topical administration.

34. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 29, wherein the composition is formulated for administration by intra-articular injection.

35. A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 29 to 34, wherein the corticosteroid is selected from the group comprising hydrocortisone acetate, hydrocortisone, betamethasone, betamethasone dipropionate, dexamethasone, fluocortolone 21-pivalate, triamcinolone acetonide, betamethasone valerate, alclometasone dipropionate, halcinonide, mometasone furoate and fluocinolone acetonide.

36. A method according to claim 35 wherein the corticosteroid is selected from the group comprising hydrocortisone, betamethasone dipropionate, mometasone furoate and fluocinolone acetonide.

37. A method according to any one of claims 29 to 36, wherein the gold compound is auranofin.

DATED this 22nd Day of September 1998

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